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Tess Butler  
GIPSA, USDA  
Room 1647-S  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3604

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First, I commend Congress and GIPSA for initiating and facilitating the proposed study of marketing methods in the livestock red meat industries. This is much needed work.

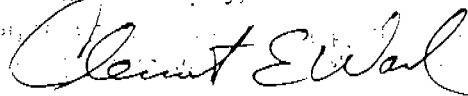
This comment relates primarily to my interest in participating in this study, either as a contractee or, if an unsuccessful bidder, then as an academic peer review panelist. The specific objectives and research phases seem reasonable and I offer no suggestions for changes.

My specific interests lie in Part 3, Objective 6, examining price differences among spot and alternative marketing arrangements and the effects on short run market prices; and in Part 4, Objective 8, examining implications of alternative marketing arrangements on price discovery in cattle.

As for my qualifications, I could provide my resume' and list of relevant publications to the issues being addressed, but chose not to do so with this comment as it will be incorporated in the bid process. I will mention that I am in the midst of writing an issues paper on the proposed packer ban legislation that focuses more specifically and even handedly on the potential impacts of the legislation than previous work by economists and attorneys. In addition, having been the lead researcher on the captive supplies portion of the Congressionally mandated concentration study undertaken by GIPSA, I am very much aware of the theoretical and empirical research before and since that study, data availability and needs, as well as methodological challenges and issues. Perhaps as importantly, I recognize the limitations of our prior research, and the gap between empirical research findings and both the observations and perceptions of cattle producers and feeders, and would like the opportunity to improve on our and others' prior research.

To reiterate, I would like an opportunity to participate in this study. Please send me relevant contract procurement information and, in the event of an unsuccessful bid, please consider me for the academic review panel. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Clement E. Ward  
Professor and  
Extension Economist

**received**  
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